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## Soviet Charges A.P. Reporters With Criminal Acts

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MOSCOW, June 8 — The Soviet Government charged today that a correspondent for The Associated Press and a former reporter in Moscow for the news agency exceeded the "framework of journalism" by purportedly aiding a would-be defector.

The charges were handed to the press attaché of the United States Embassy by the Soviet Foreign Ministry and simultaneously published by the Soviet press agency Tass. The embassy expressed concern that the statement "may be intended to intimidate Western correspondents in Moscow."

[In New York, Nate Polowetzky, A.P.'s foreign editor, said, "We are satisfied that members of The Associated Press staff were not involved in any criminal activity whatsoever."]

The reporters named in the statement were Marc Rosenwasser, who left Moscow and the A.P. in December 1982 and now works for ABC News in New York, and Alison C. Smale, a Briton who is still in Moscow. Miss Smale has been in Moscow since January 1983.

[In New York, Mr. Rosenwasser said "charges made in a Moscow court that I engaged in criminal activity while working for The Associated Press in Moscow are false and absurd."]

Miss Smale denied that she had known of or taken part in any criminal action. The 28-year-old reporter was interrogated this February and in December 1983 by the K.G.B. about the purported defection attempt. The K.G.B. is the Soviet internal security force.

Miss Smale told the K.G.B. at those interrogations that she had met the suspect, but had never discussed plans to leave the Soviet Union.

Though the Soviet allegations were

described by Tass as a "separate ruling passed by the Moscow city people's court," the démarche handed to the American diplomat did not indicate any further action to be taken against Miss Smale, and Soviet sources privately said there would be none.

Legal sources in Moscow were unable to find any immediate explanation for a "separate ruling" against two correspondents who were neither formally charged nor summoned before court.

The A.P. bureau in Moscow was not directly advised of the accusations, and efforts by the A.P. and other correspondents to reach spokesmen in the Foreign Ministry for an explanation were unsuccessful.

A statement issued by the United States Embassy said: "We are very disturbed by the Foreign Ministry démarche presented to the embassy press attaché and by the immediate publicity given to it. We are concerned that it may be intended to intimidate Western correspondents in Moscow."

"Over the past few months we have discussed this case with Ms. Smale and we are fully convinced she was in no way involved in any criminal activity or plans. In fact she has stated this fully and freely to the Soviet authorities."

### 'Instigation and Abetting'

The charges apparently derived from testimony given at his trial by Aleksandr I. Rukosuyev, a Soviet citizen who was accused, according to Tass, "of attempted high treason by way of defecting." Tass said the Moscow court "incontrovertibly determined that The Associated Press journalists took part in the preparation of the criminal action through instigation and abetting."

"According to the court ruling, the criminal, sentenced by court to impris-

onment, worked through the technicalities and mechanism of committing the crime with the help of Rosenwasser who had left the U.S.S.R. before Rukosuyev's trial. Rukosuyev testified that without Rosenwasser's aid and support, he would not have dared to defect using forged documents.

"A.P. journalist Smale, currently working in Moscow, was interrogated as a witness and admitted the fact of her repeated meetings with the criminal and her knowledge of his punishable designs."

Mr. Rukosuyev was jailed several months ago.

Tass said the actions by Mr. Rosenwasser and Miss Smale "exceed the framework of journalism." Non-American foreign correspondents who attended a regular briefing by Ambassador Arthur A. Hartman of the United States today said he sharply assailed what he termed the increased "harassment" of American reporters and diplomats, and that he warned of retaliatory measures if this continued.

An American consular official was recently assaulted by two Soviet men while meeting with a Soviet citizen in Leningrad.

Before that, Robert Cullen, the Newsweek correspondent in Moscow, left for New York to consult with his editors after being confronted with sordid charges by the Foreign Ministry, which he denied.